SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, my second supplementary is, whether the European countries and the US recognise Indian degrees and educational qualifications Have they details of the recent agreements with the US and the UK on academic exchanges which have been finalised? Please give details as to what are the contents of these exchange programmes and what schemes have been devised.

श्री मोहम्मद अली अशरफ फातमी : सर, यूके और यूएसए के साथ हमारा कोई academic exchange agreement नहीं है। जहां तक डिग्रियों का सवाल है, डिप्लोमैटिक चैनल से जो मुख्तलिफ डिग्रियां हैं, उनको हम रिकग्नाइज़ करते हैं और हमारा डिग्री वे रिकग्नाइज़ करते हैं। इग्लैंड और अमेरिका में यहां के काफी छात्र तालीम हासिल कर रहे हैं, नौकरी कर रहे हैं। उनको जब कभी कोई मुश्किल आती है तो हम उस कंट्री से बात करके जो हमारी काउंसिल्स है, उनकी जिम्मेदारी होती है, वे बात करके उन डिग्रियों को देख लेती हैं कि कौन सी डिग्री वहां की हमारे यहां रिकग्नाइज़ हो सकती है और यहां की डिग्री वहां रिकग्नाइज़ हो सकती हैं?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Growth of agro-rural industries

*124 SHRI T.TV. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state

(a) whether any survey has been made in recent years to know the growth of agro-rural industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to give competitive edge to this sector by way of subsidies, advanced technology, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries and the organizations under it have not made any survey in recent years, *i.e.,* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 to know the growth of

agro and rural industries in the country. However, the estimated growth in the value of production and employment in agro and rural industries, *i.e.,* khadi, village and coir industries in the country during each of the last three years is as under:

Year	Production (Rs. crore)	Employment (lakh person)
2002-03	10059.37	72.23
2003-04	11430.20	77.04
2004-05	12820.43	82.83

(c) The steps taken to give a competitive edge to the agro and rural industries sector by way of subsidies, advanced technology, etc., include:

(i) Rural Industries Service Centres Scheme (RISC) for setting up of Common Facility Centers (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to such industries;

(ii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging Programme (PRODIP) for improved design and packaging of village industry products;

(iii) Development of coir production infrastructure through supply of coir equipment and machineries at subsidised rate;

(iv) Modernisation of technologies relating to coir fibre extraction, spinning, product manufacturing, etc., as part of research and development activities of Coir Board;

(v) Subsidy for replacement of traditional rates by motorised rates under Mahila Coir Yojana leading to improved productivity and quality in coir sector, etc.; and

(vi) Various types of subsidies for cluster-based development in khadi, coir and village industries under the recently approved Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI).

Besides, assistance is also available to eligible agro and rural industries under the following schemes for small scale - industries:

(i) Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for technology upgradation and modernisation of production techniques;

(ii) Provision of various kinds of assistance under the Small Industry Cluster Development Programme (SICDP) for holistic development of SSI clusters; and

(iii) Incentives (subsidy) scheme for acquiring ISO Certification for technological upgradation and quality improvement.

Role of Rehabilitation Council of India

*128. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the role of Rehabilitation Cduncil of India (RCI);

(b) the management structure of the RCI;

(c) the objectives of the RCI;

(d) the budget of the RCI in the last fiscal year;

(e) whether RCI has to be modified to make it more relevant for the needs of the country; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) The role of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is to regulate and monitor the training of rehabilitation professionals and personnel, promote research in rehabilitation and maintain Central Rehabilitation Register.

(b) According to the RCI Act 1992, the Central Government has constituted the Council consisting of a Chairperson and twenty eight members including the Member Secretary. The Council operates through the Executive Committee and other Committees formed from its members to achieve the purpose of the Act. The Council and the Executive Committee are headed by the Chairperson.